



Excellence within a caring, supportive community

FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN
PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT
PROSPECTUS 2024

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Welcome

Our motto in Friends' School Preparatory Department is **“Excellence within a caring, supportive community.”**

We strive to ensure that our pupils are educated in a secure and nurturing environment based on the principles of the Religious Society of Friends, from which the school has its foundation. Our aim is to provide a holistic education where every child develops academically, socially and personally to be the best they can be.

We know that when a parent chooses Friends' Prep for their child, they are entrusting us with a great responsibility: children need an environment where they feel safe to take risks, try new experiences and push themselves to new heights, to develop self-confidence and empathy for others.

We realise that the best education involves an authentic partnership between home and school. We know that parents share in the educational process with us, and we are proud of our excellent relationships within the Prep community.

We hope that you get a flavour of our school as you read through this prospectus. If you are curious to find out more, please arrange a time to visit us. You are assured a warm welcome.

Ruth Watson
Head of Preparatory Department



Our History

Formerly known as the Ulster Provincial School, Friends' derives its current name from the Religious Society of Friends, who founded a boarding school for thirty boys and girls in 1774.

The school still stands on the site on Prospect Hill it has occupied since its foundation and welcomes pupils from Lisburn and the surrounding area.

The Chair of the Board of Governors and the Principal report to the Ulster Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The Board of Governors includes eight representatives of Ulster Friends, who work alongside six nominees from the Department of Education, two elected parent governors and two elected teacher governors.

The Preparatory Department is a long-established and integral part of Friends' School, providing education for three- to eleven-year-olds in a co-educational and interdenominational environment. For almost fifty years the Preparatory Department was located in Prospect House, situated within the grounds of the Grammar School. In September 1996, the Preparatory Department moved into a new purpose-built building adjacent to the Quaker Meeting House.



By 1900 the School had become a recognised feature of Lisburn life, enrolling non-Quakers as well as Quakers and serving the needs of the general community of Lisburn and district.



FSL 250

As we look back at the last 250 years, we do so with an appreciation of the legacy we have been left by previous generations. We hope to mark this important milestone in the life of the school with legacy projects and a series of events.

As well as publishing a new coffee table book about the school, set in the context of the history of the area, we also have plans to commission a new painting of school and to create a digital archive for pupils past and present.

Plans are in place for a new outdoor performance space which, as well as allowing pupils to showcase their talents in music and drama, will also serve as a recreational space and outdoor classroom. To enhance pupils' physical and mental wellbeing, we also hope to open a legacy trail around the perimeter of our grounds.

The Preparatory Department are planning a garden with a unique link to the school's past and a play area for Foundation Stage pupils to take their learning outdoors.

The year will begin with a meeting for worship in the school assembly hall and the programme of events will include a celebration of sport, a garden party, a Christmas market, a gala concert and a celebration dinner.





ASPIRE

We want our pupils to be the best they can be, which is why we have chosen the acronym ASPIRE to sum up the values we think are important and which we seek to live out in our everyday lives. Drawn from the Quaker Testimonies, these values of Adventure, Sustainability, Peace, Integrity, Respect and Equality underpin everything we do.

These are values we seek to model in our everyday lives and which we want each of our pupils to nurture.

We aspire to live adventurously, to take risks in our learning and grasp the opportunities available to us to explore the world around us.

We aspire to live sustainably, to make good use of our resources and reduce our impact on the environment.

We aspire to live at peace with ourselves and others, to nurture our wellbeing and to resolve conflict where we see it.

We aspire to live with integrity, to be honest in our dealings with others and to be true to our values.

We aspire to show respect to ourselves and others, to nurture our talents and to build our school community.

We aspire to promote equality, to value everyone for who they are and to celebrate the contribution they make.

Our Curriculum

We seek to provide a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to the needs of our pupils.

The Preparatory Department delivers the full Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, covering seven areas of learning:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education
- The World Around us and Religious Education

Three cross-curricular skills are integrated through all subjects – Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

In addition, we work closely with the Grammar School to provide Modern Language teaching from Prep 2-Prep 7.

We are mindful that good teaching does not simply impart knowledge; our teachers plan lessons carefully to build thinking skills and personal capabilities alongside academic content. It is our ambition to develop a lifelong love of learning in children. We seek to inspire genuine intellectual curiosity and a capability to learn independently.

We have an experienced and dedicated team of teaching and support staff who know the children well and are passionate about developing potential. Our children progress to secondary education with the life skills necessary to succeed. For most of our pupils, this will be in a local grammar school.

Those who require some extra help with their work are supported by their teachers and other staff in classes of no more than 26 pupils, or in smaller withdrawal groups with a dedicated learning support teacher.





By creating a vibrant learning environment and setting high expectations for work and behaviour, we ensure that children reach their potential and receive a well-rounded education.

Sport

We are fortunate in Friends' Prep to have full use of the grammar school facilities, including the Gym, Sports Hall and two floodlit hockey pitches.

Children enjoy regular swimming lessons at Lisburn Leisureplex and gymnastics at Salto Gymnastics Centre.

Our pupils take part in a range of interschool sporting competitions, which develop sportsmanship, ignite enthusiasm and inspire success. In hockey, both our boys' and girls' teams regularly qualify to represent the Lisburn Area in the Northern Ireland Mini-Hockey Finals. Inter-House Class Swimming Galas are held each year and top swimmers from the Prep are entered in the Ulster and Irish Minor Schools Swimming Championships.

However, sport is not the preserve of those who are blessed with innate ability; it is an essential element in every child's development.





We offer an extensive list of sporting activities in both PE classes and as extra-curricular clubs.

Music and Performing Arts

Music is an integral part of the curriculum for all classes, and we are fortunate to be able to offer individual tuition in piano, violin, guitar and drums for those who are keen to develop their musical ability.

From Prep 4 onwards, all children learn to play the recorder. Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in interschool musical events such as Peace Proms in the Waterfront Hall. The school choir sings regularly at school and local community events.

Many children enjoy drama and opportunities are provided for children to rehearse and perform for an audience. Prep 1 to Prep 7 take part in the annual Nativity Play, while Pre-Prep have their own Christmas performance. In the spring term, we produce an excellent drama production in the grammar school assembly hall.

For those who wish to develop their skills, Cue Academy provide small group tuition in speech and drama or musical theatre in school.





The Great Outdoors

We are fortunate to be surrounded by nature in our attractive and spacious school grounds.

We exploit every opportunity to take our learning outside. The children are involved from Prep 1 in planting, tending and harvesting their own crops in our garden and polytunnel - a cucumber, tomato or pumpkin that you've grown yourself is much tastier than one from a shop!

We are currently training the Early Years staff as Forest School leaders; it is our vision that all teachers will complete their accreditation within the next three years.

We are the closest school to Wallace Park and the children visit often for walks, nature trails and even PE lessons. All parents give ongoing permission at the start of the school year for their child to visit the park so that we can take immediate advantage of changes that take place through the seasons.





Extra-curricular Activities

Our extra-curricular programme adds much to school life; We are keen that our pupils pursue their interests, build confidence and learn new skills.

We work with outside providers including Kindergarden Cooks, Active Hour Sports, CK Coaching, Ruckus Rugby, Activity NI, Gillian Jones Dance, Hilden Tennis and McAuley Badminton. Teaching staff lead a range of clubs covering music, drama, art and sport - there is something for everyone.

All classes enjoy regular day trips off-campus to enhance their classroom learning while older pupils can take part in a residential visit in the summer term.

Prep 6 visit Greenhill YMCA while Prep 7 travel to the Share Centre in Co. Fermanagh. These trips are anticipated with great excitement and provide opportunities to learn new transferable skills and build independence before entering secondary education.





Wraparound Care

We provide an environment in which pupils, staff and parents are committed to the idea of excellence within a caring, supportive community.

Friends' Prep offers flexible wraparound care from Pre-Prep to Prep 7 if required. Breakfast Club is accommodated in the dining hall from 8:00am-8:30am each day. Afterschool runs from the end of school until 6pm. It is seen as a happy extension of school life, with nutritious snacks available, the opportunity for key stage two pupils to start homework and a range of fun recreational activities are provided.

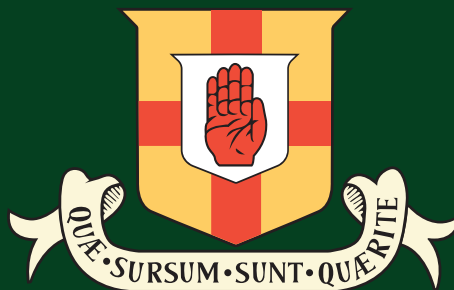




Ready for the Future

When a Prep 7 pupil leaves Friends' Preparatory Department for the final time, they will be well prepared for the academic rigour of secondary education in any school.

However, they will leave with so much more. They will have experienced the values and ethos that permeate our school, giving them the character and confidence to achieve their calling and to contribute positively to society throughout their lives. They will have been nurtured to reach their potential. They will have experienced excellence within a caring, supportive environment.



Contact us

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